



SPLASH STEERING COMMITTEE

A Comprehensive Study of North Pacific Humpback Whales

Structure of Populations, Levels of Abundance and Status of Humpback Whales

The following steering committee members have been instrumental to the development of SPLASH:

Jay Barlow

Head, Coastal Marine Mammal Program, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries

Dr. Barlow is the SPLASH liaison with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center and is one of the coordinators for field studies in the Aleutian, Bering Sea, and offshore Gulf of Alaska areas. He also leads the Coastal Marine Mammal Program at the SWFSC, coordinating research and stock assessments on the cetaceans and pinnipeds of the U.S. West Coast and Hawai'i. His primary research interests include visual and acoustic survey methods, abundance estimation, population dynamics and conservation biology. Dr. Barlow received his Ph.D. from Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

<http://swfsc.nmfs.noaa.gov/prd/PROGRAMS/CMMP/default.htm>

Alexander Burdin

Visiting Scientist, Alaska Sea Life Center

The Alaska SeaLife Center is a non-profit marine science facility dedicated to understanding and maintaining the integrity of the marine ecosystem of Alaska. Dr. Burdin is Chief of Laboratory of Animal Ecology at the Kamchatka Branch of the Pacific Institute of Geography. He has worked on marine mammals in the Russian Far East since 1979. In 1995, he began work on a joint Russian-US study project on the Sea of Okhotsk's population of gray whales off Sakhalin and bowheads in the Shantar Islands region.

<http://www.alaskasealife.org>

John Calambokidis

Research Biologist, Cascadia Research Collective

Founded in 1979, Cascadia Research is a non-profit scientific and educational organization based in Washington that identifies research needed to manage and protect threatened marine mammals. Co-founder John Calambokidis has served as the principal investigator on more than 40 research studies on marine mammals, marine birds, and pollution. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Evergreen State College in Olympia.

<http://www.cascadiaresearch.org>

John Ford

Director, Marine Mammal Group, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Nanaimo, British Columbia

Established in 1908, the Pacific Biological Station is the principal centre for fisheries research on the west coast of Canada and is the main facility for the Science Branch of the Fisheries & Oceans Canada in the Pacific Region. Dr. Ford is head of the Cetacean Research Program at the Pacific Biological Station. He has been involved in field studies on cetaceans in the northeastern Pacific for over 25 years. His areas of specialty include the behavior and acoustic communication of killer whales and the conservation status of cetaceans listed under Canada's new Species-at-Risk Act. Dr. Ford received his Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia.

Pacific Biological Station: http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci/pbs/default_e.htm

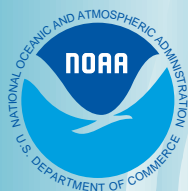
Cetacean Research Program: http://www-sci.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sa/cetacean/default_e.htm

Chris Gabriele

Biologist, Glacier Bay National Park, National Park Service

Chris Gabriele is a wildlife biologist at Glacier Bay National Park, where she has conducted an annual humpback whale population monitoring study since 1991. She also leads the Park's underwater acoustic monitoring study, which aims to characterize natural and man-made sources of underwater sound and their potential influences on whales. She received her Master's degree at the University of Hawai'i and has participated in field research on the vocalizations of blue whales, fin whales, humpbacks and bowheads, including studies of whales' reactions to underwater sound.

<http://www.nps.gov/glba>



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Rick LeDuc

Research Biologist, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries

The research arm of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Southwest Fisheries Science Center conducts marine biological, economic, and oceanographic research throughout the Pacific and in the Antarctic. The ultimate purpose of the data collection and analysis is for protection and management of these resources, to ensure that fish, marine mammal, and sea turtle populations remain at sustainable and healthy levels and that the most effective fishing regulations and international fisheries treaties are implemented. Rick LeDuc's research on marine mammals began with a phylogenetic study of the family *Delphinidae* and has since focused on population genetic studies of baleen whales, particularly blue, gray, bowhead, and Bryde's whales, as well as a broader study of North Pacific right whales.

<http://swfsc.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

David Mattila

Science and Rescue Coordinator, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program

David Mattila has recently joined the staff of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary as its new Science and Rescue Coordinator. He has conducted research on whales since 1978 and directed humpback whale studies at the Center for Coastal Studies in New England from 1980 to 2002. He has focused on the Gulf of Maine feeding grounds of the humpback and their principal breeding grounds in the Greater Antilles. He received the "Ocean Hero Award" from the Smithsonian Institution in 1994 for his work in promoting international conservation and scientific collaboration as well as the "Environmental Hero Award" by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Mattila was one of the originators of the "Years of the North Atlantic Humpback" (YONAH) project, which was (prior to SPLASH) the largest study of a single whale species ever attempted. Since 1984 Mattila and his colleagues have developed equipment and techniques to attach to and restrain free-swimming whales in order to release them from lethal entanglements in fishing gear.

Terry Quinn

Professor, Juneau Center, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Dr. Quinn is Professor of Fish Population Dynamics at the Juneau Center of the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks. His research interests include mathematical and statistical modeling of biological populations, and management of commercial and recreational fisheries.

Lorenzo Rojas Bracho

Coordinador, Programa Nacional de Mamíferos Marinos, Instituto Nacional de Ecología, Ensenada, Baja California, México

Lorenzo Bracho represents México at the Scientific Committee Meetings of the International Whaling Commission. In addition he has been a primary voice for the conservation of marine mammals in México, especially the extremely endangered Vaquita.

Jan Straley

Assistant Professor, University of Alaska, Sitka

Jan Straley is an assistant professor of marine biology at the University of Alaska Southeast Sitka Campus. She received her Master's Degree at the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks. Though she has worked primarily in the field of biology as it relates to fisheries and wildlife, her emphasis has been in whale research, namely population dynamics, feeding ecology and social structure of humpback whales. She is currently studying the predation of Steller sea lions by killer whales and sperm whale interactions with longline fisheries in southeastern Alaska.

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Jorge Urban

Professor, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur

Dr. Urban received his Ph.D. at the National University of México and is a research specialist in the marine mammals of México. He has presented papers on this topic at more than 60 international meetings and has written numerous publications about the great whales of México. In addition to being a member of the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission and the IUCN Cetaceans Specialist Group, Dr. Urban works as coordinator of the Marine Mammal Research Program at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur at La Paz.

Paul Wade

Head, Cetacean Assessment and Ecology Program, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, NOAA Fisheries

Paul R. Wade is a research biologist at the National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries, in Seattle, Washington, where he is leader of the Cetacean Assessment and Ecology Program that conducts research on cetaceans in Alaska. He received his degree in 1994 from Scripps Institution of Oceanography. His research interests focus on the population dynamics and ecology of marine mammals, the conservation biology of marine vertebrates, and the use of modeling and quantitative methods, particularly Bayesian statistics, in conservation and management. He is a member of the U.S. delegation to the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission, the Cetacean Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, and has participated in several ESA recovery and review teams.

David Weller

Visiting Research Scientist, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries

Dave Weller studied gray whales, humpback whales, sperm whales, and bottlenose dolphins throughout the world for the past twenty years. Since 1977 his primary research focus has centered on the biology, behavior, and conservation of the critically endangered western gray whale population that summers off Sakhalin Island, Russia.

Kate Wynne

Research Associate Professor, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Kate Wynne is an Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program's Marine Mammal Specialist as well as an associate professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She has been involved in the documentation and mitigation of marine mammal interactions with humans throughout the U.S. for over two decades. Her current research focuses on assessing prey use by pinnipeds and whales in the Kodiak area, their dietary overlap, and potential for competition with coastal Alaskan fisheries. In addition to her research, she has written Guide to Marine Mammals of Alaska and Guide to Marine Mammals and Turtles of the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico to increase public awareness and ability to accurately identify marine mammals.

<http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/map>

Manami Yamaguchi

Research Biologist, Ogasawara Marine Centre, Japan

Ogasawara Marine Centre has studied marine turtles for 18 years and humpback whales for 14 years. Manami helped to pioneer the work with humpback whales and now directs that program. The Centre tries to bring all members of the island community together to listen, learn and discuss the issues of traditional fisheries, culture and resource sustainability with the hope that such participatory approaches to managing natural resources reveals the importance of sharing information and ideas for sustainable resource management.

For More Information go to: <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>